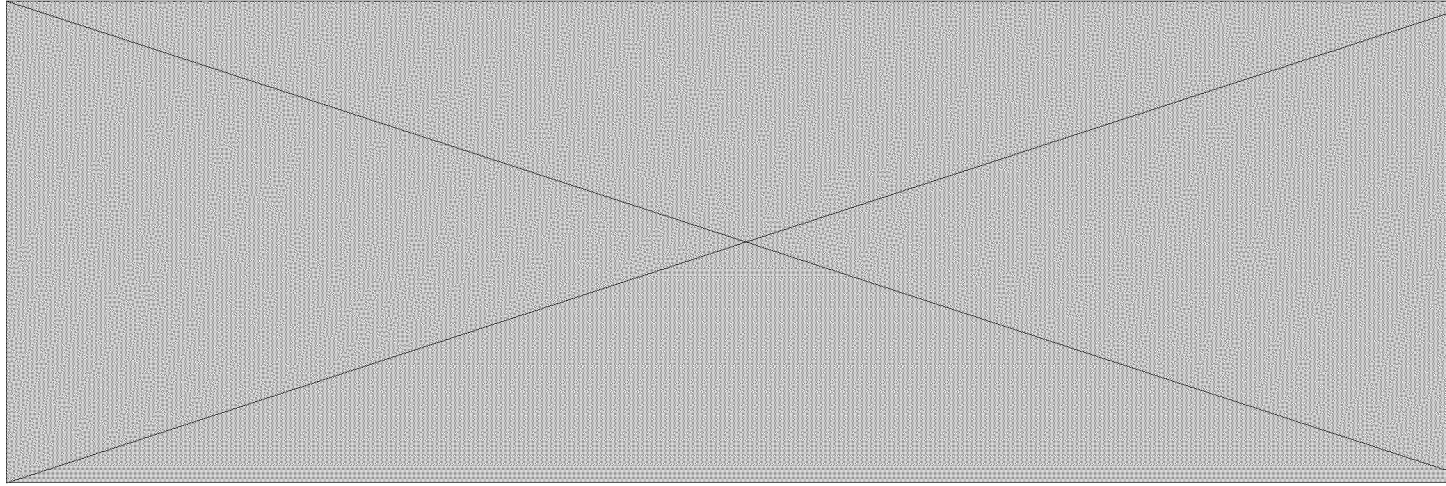


**To:** Mccarthy, Gina[McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]  
**From:** news@religionandecology.org  
**Sent:** Wed 2/17/2016 1:36:41 AM  
**Subject:** [SPAM] Religion and Ecology News Articles (February 2016)



## **Religion and Ecology News Articles**

Dear Forum Colleagues,

Greetings! Below you will find the latest religion and ecology news articles from a number of news sources. For your convenience, I have included short introductions to each story and provide URLs for the full story. I have grouped articles together that pertain to a common topic, but a number of articles belong within multiple sections.

Within this email, you will find news related to the following topics:

- 1. Pope Francis, Climate Change, and the Environment**
- 2. Religion and Climate Change**
- 3. Religious Responses to the Water Crisis in Flint, MI, USA**
- 4. Religion, Ethics, and Ecology**
- 5. Newsletters**

For recent news articles, visit: <http://fore.yale.edu/news/>

For the archive of past news articles, visit: <http://fore.yale.edu/publications/massmedia>

Take care,

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## **1. Pope Francis, Climate Change, and the Environment**

### **What these Christians are giving up for Lent: Fossil fuels**

By Chelsea Harvey  
Washington Post  
February 10, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/02/10/what-these-christians-are-giving-up-for-lent-fossil-fuels/>

A new initiative in the United Kingdom is not only calling for Christian communities to band together in support of clean energy, but actually helping them get their own electricity that way. The Big Church Switch, which launched Wednesday, aims to inspire both individuals and churches to make the switch to renewable energy sources — and they're already gaining support from church leaders in the country.

### **Why climate change is really, really unfair**

By Chris Mooney  
Washington Post  
February 5, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/02/05/why-climate-change-is-really-really-unfair/>

With his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si,” Pope Francis went further than perhaps anyone has before to reframe the entire debate around climate change by focusing on the world’s poor and the duty to protect them from environmental harms that they did not cause themselves. Now, new research in the journal Scientific Reports has underscored the pope’s message by showing that when it comes to climate change, it is indeed the countries with the most to lose that tend to contribute to the problem least — and also the other way round. The countries that contribute most to the problem — such as China and the United States, the current top two emitters — tend to show less relative vulnerability to the impact compared with nations that have quite low levels of emissions, the research finds.

### **In February prayer video, Pope Francis pleads for creation care, 'a new way of living'**

By Brian Roewe  
National Catholic Reporter

February 5, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/february-prayer-video-pope-francis-pleads-creation-care-new-way-living>

Pope Francis reinforced core messages of his major encyclical on the environment in his video prayer intention for February, asking people across the globe to do their part in "caring for our common home," and to discover "a new way of living." The video, the new medium for the monthly prayer intentions, opens with dawn breaking through a forest. Images of majestic mountains follow, along with a school of fish and budding plants.

### **On Moral Grounds**

By Maya Chandra

Yale Daily News

January 22, 2016

<http://yaledailynews.com/blog/2016/01/22/on-moral-grounds/>

2015's best advocate for the rights of the environment may very well be the Pope. And if other religious leaders follow his example, the U.S. just might be on its way to successfully combating climate change. Climate change has been acknowledged as an environmental and politically divisive issue for years, but a new report published this month by Yale and George Mason universities suggests that redefining it as a moral issue may lead to more widespread support for action on behalf of Mother Earth. The report, entitled "Faith, Morality and the Environment," explores the wide range of American attitudes on climate change.

### **Heeding Pope Francis's Call, SJU Hosts Conference to Tackle Worldwide Crisis**

St. John's University

February 2, 2016

<http://www.stjohns.edu/about/news/2016-02-02/heeding-pope-francis-s-call-sju-hosts-conference-tackle-worldwide-crisis>

His Holiness Pope Francis's deep concern for the global ecological crisis and its impact on the poor was the topic of the Ninth Biennial Vincentian Chair of Social Justice Conference, held on January 30 at the Queens, NY, campus. The Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John's—along with the faculty Vincentian Research Fellows—hosted the daylong event, entitled "Care for Our Common Home: The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor." Approximately 240 participants, attendees, faculty, and students took part in panels, break-out meetings, and question-and-answer sessions.

### **US Catholics allergic to reality of environmental racism, theologian says at St. John's University**

By Peter Feuerherd

National Catholic Reporter

February 2, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/us-catholics-allergic-reality-environmental-racism-theologian-says-st-johns>

Queens, NY -- Catholic environmentalists need to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor, Fr. Bryan Massingale, theology professor at Marquette University, told a conference at St. John's University here on Saturday. "We all live on the same planet but we don't breathe in the same air. Some environments are more equal than others," said Massingale, who cited how minority communities have been used as dumping grounds for decades. "The poor and communities of color bear risks that would be unacceptable" for white and more affluent areas. These communities, he said, have long been "sacrifice zones" of environmental degradation, places where unwanted waste is disposed.

### **Laudato Si and Renewing Creation at the Earth Summit**

By Kristen Hannum

Catholic Sentinel

January 31, 2016

<http://www.catholic sentinel.org/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=35&ArticleID=30912>

The well-spoken man spoke out a bit too late; most of the attendees at the session, "Catholic Farmers Reflect on Pope Francis' Encyclical" had already stood up, chatting about what they'd heard. Some were on their way out the door, ready to leave the workshop, one of a dozen at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) and Oregon Interfaith Power & Light's seventh annual Earth Summit, on Jan. 31 at the University of Portland. It was time to go to Bauccio Commons, where there would be dinner and Portland Mayor Charlie Hales speaking.

### **Cardinal Turkson: Laudato si' continues to be relevant**

Vatican Radio

January 15, 2016

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/15/cardinal\\_turkson\\_laudato\\_si\\_continues\\_to\\_be\\_relevant/1201212](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/15/cardinal_turkson_laudato_si_continues_to_be_relevant/1201212)

(Vatican Radio) The President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Cardinal Peter Turkson, on Friday spoke during a special event in Geneva discussing Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Laudato si'. "Pope Francis puts forward the concept of integral ecology, which clearly respects the human and social dimensions of the crisis," Cardinal Turkson said. "This is an inclusive, dynamic paradigm to articulate the fundamental relationships of each person with God, with other human beings including him- or her-self, and with creation."

### **The moral dimension of climate change—and of courage to address it**

World Council of Churches

January 15, 2016

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/the-moral-dimension-of-climate-change2014and-of-courage-to-address-it>

Implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change sharpened discussion of the 2015 papal encyclical *Laudato Si'* at a UN conference initiated by the Holy See and several permanent missions to the UN on 15 January in Geneva. Among the presenters at the conference were keynoter Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace; Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, apostolic nuncio at the Holy See's permanent mission to the United Nations; and World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit.

### **Pope Francis' Call for Action – One Key to Global Climate Agreement**

By Oscar Cantú

Morning Consult

January 14, 2016

<http://morningconsult.com/opinions/pope-francis-call-for-action-one-key-to-global-climate-agreement/>

In the wake of the historic Paris climate agreement, many commentators have focused on the extraordinary work of the negotiators, the terms that have been agreed upon and the global outlook going forward. While these important topics merit extended analysis, I believe that we should also reflect on the key role that morality and ethics played in brokering a successful deal in Paris.

### **Religion and Climate Change**

By Lloyd Steffen

Huffington Post

January 13, 2016

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lloyd-steffen/religion-and-climate-change\\_b\\_8900316.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lloyd-steffen/religion-and-climate-change_b_8900316.html)

At the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference, delegates from 196 countries signed the Paris Agreement aimed at reducing carbon emissions and thus halting the destructive effects of global warming. The agreement awaits ratification by signatories and takes effect only if 55 of the nations that account for 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions take action and endorse the agreement--the U. S. is not expected to ratify. The Paris agreement is significant in terms of politics and economics, but religious leaders have also voiced support of the agreement, and clearly a move is underway to make climate change and environmental responsibility an integral part of contemporary religious life and practice.

### **Pope inspires clergy to join environmental movement**

By T.J. Pignataro

The Buffalo News

January 9, 2016

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city-region/pope-inspires-clergy-to-join-environmental-movement-20160109>

A papal encyclical aimed at caring for the environment has given clergy a renewed imperative for responsible action. Look at any environmental gathering in the Buffalo Niagara region, and you'll see the usuals: the bird-watchers, hikers, pollution fighters, neighborhood activists and even the granola-eating tree-huggers. But now others show up in greater numbers, too. You can thank God for that. Or Yahweh. Even Allah or the Great Spirit. Environmentalists are making room for priests, nuns, rabbis, imams and others of faith who care about the environment and want to play a role in protecting our water, air and land.

### **Pope Francis was right on climate change**

By John Nagle

Washington Post

January 7, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/01/07/pope-francis-was-right-on-climate-change/>

Climate will have such a profound effect on the earth that we will need to reconsider our relationship with the natural environment. That's why many environmental activists are now being drawn to an evolving philosophical stance on the topic, shifting away from an approach that is simply political, scientific or economic.

### **Religious leaders commit to environmental protection in Vietnam**

By Joachim Pham

Global Sisters Report

January 4, 2016

<http://globalsistersreport.org/news/environment/religious-leaders-commit-environmental-protection-vietnam-36091>

Religious representatives promised to work to protect the environment and cope with climate change at a national conference that drew 400 participants to this central Vietnam area in early December. Some 160 religious leaders and social workers from 14 religions attended the national conference called Promoting the Role of Faith-based Organizations in Environment Protection and Climate Change Responses. The Dec. 2-3 conference was co-organized by Norwegian Church Aid, an ecumenical organization for global justice, the National Resources and Environment Ministry, and Vietnam Fatherland Front, an umbrella of the communist party.

### **Time for leaders to make moral choice on climate change**

By Russell L. Meyer

Palm Beach Post

January 2, 2016

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/opinion/commentary-time-for-leaders-to-make-moral-choice-o/npsyZ/>

During his visit to the United States in September, Pope Francis told the American people that

“climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our future generation. When it comes to the care of our common home, we are living at a critical moment of history.” Nowhere does this message resonate more than in Florida, where our communities already are experiencing the impacts of climate change in our own backyards. Coastal and tourism-based counties are facing significant future loss of their tax base because of rising sea levels.

### **The Rabbi Who Became an Environment Minister and Calls the Pope His 'Rav'**

By Cecilia Blasbalg

Haaretz Daily Newspaper

December 29, 2015

<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/features/.premium-1.694366>

Sergio Bergman, the Argentinian pharmacist-turned-rabbi-turned-politician, says his latest career choices were all inspired by his 'rabbi': Pope Francis. When Argentina's new government was sworn in earlier this month, most ministers took their oath on a Christian Bible. But there was one politician who brought his own holy text, a Hebrew Bible with just the Old Testament. That was Rabbi Sergio Bergman, Argentina's newly-minted environment minister.

### **A young Catholic from Kenya reflects on the Pope's African visit**

By Allen Ottaro

The Catholic World Report

December 28, 2015

[http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/4466/a\\_young\\_catholic\\_from\\_kenya\\_reflects\\_on\\_the\\_popes\\_african](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/4466/a_young_catholic_from_kenya_reflects_on_the_popes_african)

A month has already gone by since Pope Francis set foot on Kenya soil, on his first apostolic visit to the African continent, a visit which also took him to Uganda and the Central African Republic. Following the trip, the Holy Father has shared his reflections about his time in Africa, fielding questions from journalists on the flight back to Rome and commenting at the Wednesday General Audience on the second day of December.

### **The ecological justice work of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary at West Lake landfill — and beyond**

By Kelly Moffitt

St. Louis Public Radio

December 22, 2015

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/ecological-justice-work-franciscan-sisters-mary-west-lake-landfill-and-beyond>

You may have heard of the local group of nuns who go to Bridgeton to pray for and protest over the West Lake and Bridgeton landfills, which have been the subject of much controversy in recent years. What you may not know is that movement is part of a greater spiritual calling for the Franciscan Sisters of Mary (FSM) to do ecological justice work — and how close-to-home the landfill saga is for the sisters.

### **Praise and plaudits from the best of COP21**

By Donna Schaper

National Catholic Reporter

December 22, 2015

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/praise-and-plaudits-best-cop21>

After Paris and its enormous invigoration of the environmental, scientific and religious communities, it is time to figure out who is who and what is what. My big takeaways involve all three of these communities at their environmental -- and strategic -- best.

### **WCC leader says faith groups must follow up on climate deal**

Vatican Radio

December 16, 2015

[http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/16/wcc\\_leader\\_says\\_faith\\_groups\\_must\\_follow\\_up\\_on\\_climate\\_deal/1](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/16/wcc_leader_says_faith_groups_must_follow_up_on_climate_deal/1)

World leaders have hailed the climate change agreement they struck in Paris at the weekend as historic, while some environmentalists have warned the deal does not go far enough to curb the effects of global warming on our planet. Financial analysts meanwhile have described the summit's outcome as the most important climate agreement since the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, saying it will boost the world's low carbon-emissions economy.

### **On care for our common home**

By Phyllis Zagano

National Catholic Reporter

December 16, 2015

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/just-catholic/care-our-common-home>

When you were decking your halls recently, they probably were not in your 30,000 square-foot hillside mansion in Los Angeles. That's not a typo. Things have gotten so out-of-hand in California that The New York Times ran a front-page story about the seventy-foot high \$100-million extravaganza the neighbors call "the Starship Enterprise." Maybe the Archdiocese of Los Angeles should tack a copy of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home" to the front door of the building?

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## **2. Religion and Climate Change**

### **Faith communities unite for action on climate change**

By Russell L. Meyer

Orlando Sentinel

February 1, 2016



<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-ed-church-climate-change-myword-020216-20160201-story.html>

No matter our own personal faith or spiritual beliefs, one universal truth is that climate change threatens everyone. The climate agreement reached in Paris in December is a ray of hope in the international response to climate change. However, a lasting solution requires strong grass-roots action from concerned citizens and aggressive efforts on the part of political leaders.

### **Coal Money Divides Oakland's Churches**

By Darwin BondGraham

East Bay Express

February 10, 2016

<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/coal-money-divides-oaklands-churches/Content?oid=4673334>

Reverend Ken Chambers' Westside Missionary Baptist Church is located on Willow Street in West Oakland, just half a mile from the bustling railroad yard where dozens of trains pass each day. The locomotives pull mostly sealed shipping containers filled with furniture, fruits and nuts, and electronics to and from the city's busy seaport. But soon these tracks could become the busiest corridor for shipping coal on the West Coast.

### **Exxon Stiff-Arms a Request to Take Moral Responsibility for Climate Change**

By David Hasemyer

InsideClimate News

February 3, 2016

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/02022016/exxon-stiff-arms-request-take-moral-responsibility-climate-change>

Oil giant ExxonMobil moved to reject a shareholder proposal calling for the company to assert moral leadership on climate change and pledge to work toward limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius or less.

### **Why climate change is an ethical problem**

By Stephen Gardiner

Washington Post

January 9, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/in-theory/wp/2016/01/09/why-climate-change-is-an-ethical-problem/>

Climate change presents a severe ethical challenge, forcing us to confront difficult questions as individual moral agents, and even more so as members of larger political systems. It is genuinely global and seriously intergenerational, and crosses species boundaries. It also takes place in a setting where existing institutions and theories are weak, providing little ethical guidance.

## **Paris Agreement--A Good Foundation for Meaningful Progress**

By Robert Stavins

Huffington Post

January 1, 2016

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-stavins/paris-agreement-a-good-foundation\\_b\\_8903946.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-stavins/paris-agreement-a-good-foundation_b_8903946.html)

The Paris Agreement, a truly landmark climate accord, which was gaveled through today, December 12, 2015, at 7:26 pm (Paris time) at the Twenty-First Conference of the Parties (COP-21), checks all the boxes in my five-point scorecard for a potentially effective Paris Agreement, described in my November 17th blog essay, Paris Can Be a Key Step. The Agreement provides a broad foundation for meaningful progress on climate change, and represents a dramatic departure from the Kyoto Protocol and the past 20 years of climate negotiations.

## **Short Answers to Hard Questions About Climate Change**

By Justin Gillis

New York Times

November 28, 2015

[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/28/science/what-is-climate-change.html?\\_r=0v](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/28/science/what-is-climate-change.html?_r=0v)

The issue can be overwhelming. The science is complicated. Predictions about the fate of the planet carry endless caveats and asterisks. We get it. So we've put together a list of quick answers to often-asked questions about climate change. This should give you a running start on understanding the problem.

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## **3. Religious Responses to the Water Crisis in Flint, MI, USA**

### **Religious Groups Lend Helping Hand in Flint Water Crisis**

By Derek Welch

World Religion News

January 23, 2016

<http://www.worldreligionnews.com/issues/religious-groups-lend-helping-hand-in-flint-water-crisis>

Interfaith effort responds to Michigan's contaminated water supply. The Flint water crisis has pushed state and federal officials to respond with urgent help. Residents of Flint, Michigan have been exposed to dangerous lead levels due to the faulty water system. In response, musicians, religious groups and even ex-prisoners formed to participate in the grassroots effort of offering bottled water the residents of the city. Flint is located nearly 70 miles from Detroit.

### **Church groups respond to water emergency in Flint, Michigan**

By Barb Powell and Lauren Markoe

Christian Century

January 20, 2016

<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2016-01/religious-groups-step-flints-water-crisis>

The Michigan bodies of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) launched The Gospel in Action—Flint in January as President Obama declared a state of emergency in the city over its poisoned water. Two congregations in Flint are central in that effort: Vermont Christian Church is a designated water distribution point, and Woodside Church UCC is providing water filters and replacement cartridges.

### **Flint water crisis draws Southern Baptist response**

By Tobin Perry, Baptist Press

Christian Telegraph

January 28, 2016

<http://www.christiantelegraph.com/issue27277.html>

Charnisha Brown could describe in one word her feeling when she first realized that the water coming out of her pipes was contaminated -- devastated. "It was devastating to me because of the kids -- especially my kids," said Brown, a Flint, Mich., resident. "We don't want the kids going through that. We don't want anyone going through that. It's not a good thing that you can't drink your water." So when Southern Baptists provided Brown, a mother of two, with multiple cases of water, she appreciated it, saying it took stress off of her.

### **Donations stream into Catholic Charities amid Michigan water crisis**

By Traci Badalucco

National Catholic Reporter

January 14, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/donations-stream-catholic-charities-amid-michigan-water-crisis>

The Catholic community in Michigan is ramping up its efforts to support Flint residents affected by the recent crisis that left thousands of households with lead-contaminated tap water. Health authorities in Genesee County have advised residents to not consume water without using a water filter, according to the City of Flint's website.

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## **4. Religion, Ethics, and Ecology**

### **Center for Spirituality in Nature blends ecology and theology**

By Mark Jenkins

Washington Post

February 3, 2016

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/center-for-spirituality-in-nature-blends-ecology-and-theology/2016/02/02/3dcc89f6-c92e-11e5-88ff-e2d1b4289c2f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/center-for-spirituality-in-nature-blends-ecology-and-theology/2016/02/02/3dcc89f6-c92e-11e5-88ff-e2d1b4289c2f_story.html)

Beth Norcross likes to take walks in the woods. But when she does, she's looking for more than scenery and solitude. The Arlington resident is the founding director of the Center for Spirituality in Nature, which combines ecological and theological objectives. She will encourage the hikers she leads through D.C.'s Fletcher's Cove on Saturday to look outside and inside. "We'll walk along the canal and see what's happening on that particular day that we might get some spiritual insight from," Norcross said. "For example, we'll take a look at the frozen canal, and we'll wonder together what's happening underneath the surface. And we'll compare that with what might be happening to us spiritually. Where it might seem cold and frozen and dormant on the surface, what riches lie underneath?"

### **Poet Wendell Berry bequeaths farming legacy to small Catholic college**

By Judith Valente, Religion News Service

National Catholic Reporter

February 8, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/poet-wendell-berry-bequeaths-farming-legacy-small-catholic-college>

St. Catharine, K.Y. -- The tobacco farms, hay fields and rolling knobs of central Kentucky mark the landscape that inspires much of the work of award-winning poet, fiction writer and essayist Wendell Berry. The Berry family has lived in these parts for nine generations. While pursuing a prolific writing career, Berry never stopped caring for the land of his ancestors. Now, the 81-year-old writer wants to pass on his family's farming legacy to a new generation. He decided against teaming up with a large university agricultural program, and instead selected a small Catholic liberal arts college, St. Catharine College, about an hour's drive from Louisville, run by the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

### **The forest is crying**

By Angela K. Evans

Boulder Weekly

February 11, 2016

<http://www.boulderweekly.com/news/the-forest-is-crying/>

"In Africa, you'll find pygmies, as they are called in the literature, and these are the original inhabitants of the forest," says Samuel Nnah Ndobe, an environmentalist working with the hunter-gatherer Baka populations in his native Cameroon and throughout Central Africa. "They have stayed strong to their culture for ages. They've remained attached to the forest for ages." And it's these people that are largely feeling the effects of environmental degradation that is a result of international companies' operations in the Congo Basin.

### **In North Dakota's Booming Oil Patch, One Tribe Beat Back Fracking**

By Sarah van Gelder

Yes! Magazine

January 21, 2016

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/in-north-dakotas-booming-oil-patch-one-tribe-beat-back-fracking-20160121>

Drive the long, straight roads of north-central North Dakota, and you pass lake after lake amid hayfields and forests. Migratory birds, attracted by the abundance of water and grain, pause here. Farmers, boaters, and fishermen orient their lives around the pure water. The water, more than anything, explains why members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians acted so quickly when they learned their region was next in line for fracking. Within just a few weeks of tribal women meeting on the topic in late 2011, the council banned fracking on the 77,000-acre reservation.

### **EPA recruits faith groups to help end food waste**

By Brian Roewe

National Catholic Reporter

January 26, 2016

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/eco-catholic/epa-recruits-faith-groups-help-end-food-waste>

The Gospel story of the feast of the multiplication of loaves and fish ends with Jesus instructing his disciples to gather the leftovers, "so that nothing will be wasted." That's a message the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hopes to tap into with Christian and other faith communities through a new initiative. Earlier this month, EPA launched its Food Steward's Pledge, a campaign aimed at raising faith communities as leaders and leading advocates in reducing food waste, and along with it, hunger.

### **Thou Shalt Not Toss Food: Enlisting Religious Groups To Fight Waste**

By Maria Godoy

NPR

January 18, 2016

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/01/18/463109192/thou-shalt-not-toss-food-enlisting-religious-groups-to-fight-waste>

Separation of church and state? When it comes to fighting food waste, the U.S. government is looking to partner up with the faithful. The Environmental Protection Agency on Monday launched the Food Steward's Pledge, an initiative to engage religious groups of all faiths to help redirect the food that ends up in landfills to hungry mouths. It's one piece of the agency's larger plan to reduce food waste by 50 percent by 2030.

### **NGT questions Hindus' cremation procedure, says it causes air, water pollution**

India TV News Desk

February 3, 2016

<http://m.indiatvnews.com/news/india/national-green-tribunal-hindus-cremation-air-water-pollution-57385.html>

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has questioned the centuries-old tradition practised by Hindus to cremate dead bodies at the river banks, saying the method of burning wood leads to air pollution and also effects natural water resources. Keeping in mind the growing level of pollution, the NGT said that there was a need to adopt environment-friendly methods like electric crematoriums and use of CNG and change the 'mindset of the people'.

### **Water concerns bubble up in Appalachia**

By Lydia Noyes

Global Sisters Report

December 30, 2015

<http://globalsistersreport.org/blog/gsr-today/environment/water-concerns-bubble-appalachia-36021>

Since 1970, the Catholic Committee of Appalachia has existed to serve Appalachia and to address the issues this region faces, both communally and environmentally. As a membership-based organization, the CCA provides a community of solidarity and a network of support for people of faith working for social, economic and ecological justice in Appalachia. The CCA holds an annual gathering every fall, and this post is my reflection on the Sept. 18-20 gathering in Charleston, West Virginia.

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## **5. Newsletters**

### **Forum on Religion and Ecology Newsletter**

<http://fore.yale.edu/publications/newsletters/>

### **Garrison Institute's Climate, Mind and Behavior Newsletter**

<http://www.garrisoninstitute.org/climate-and-behavior/cmb-newsletter>

### **Eco-Congregation Scotland Newsletter**

<http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=a37b4ff760ffcc7fd1c3611b4&id=57e0b5c50a>

### **Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES)/EcoIslam Newsletter**

<http://us11.campaign-archive2.com/home/?u=9e7db8d664e580892adb797bf&id=45f1a8da85>

### **Green Church Newsletter**

<http://green-church.org/newsletters>

### **Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute Newsletter**

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/home/?u=887c3de8b0&id=e86d980456>

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